Doctor Thinks Body Is Really Oswald's

Valley News 10/26/79

NEW YORK (UPI) — The pathologist who performed the autopsy on the body of Lee Harvey Oswald says he believes the body was that of Oswald and not a Russian agent impersonating him.

Dr. Earl Rose said he identified Oswald's corpse through fingerprints.

Rose was supported in his contention by Robert Blakey who was chief counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Blakey, who teaches at Cornell University, said fingerprints of the man arrested in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963 as the slayer of President John Kennedy, matched those of Oswald

Blakey said speculation that the man apprehended was not Oswald but a Russian agent impersonating him is an unfounded "sideshow" that casts doubt on legitimate questions surrounding Kennedy's death.

Earlier this month, Dallas County Medical Examiner Charles Petty requested exhumation of the body in Oswald's grave to answer discrepancies reported between Oswald's military record and the autopsy report compiled after Oswald's murder by Jack Ruby.

But Rose offered possible explanations for the reported discrepancies. His explanations were supported by other pathologists interviewed last week.

The discrepancies include differences in height and weight between the autopsy report and Oswald's service record and the lack of notation on the autopsy report of a small mastoidectomy scar behind Oswald's left ear.

Rose, who now teaches at the University of Iowa, told UPI last week he documented the corpse's identity by taking its fingerprints.

He said he estimated the weight because the Dallas facility lacked a large enough scale. This, he said, possibly accounts for the difference from military records.

Measurements of the length of a corpse lying flat on an autopsy table often differ from height measurements taken before death, Rose said.

About the mastoidectomy, Rose said, "It's possible I could have overlooked some remote scar. A pathologist seldom records every scar he sees if there's been other means of identification."